



JOHN ENGEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 4.10.07
SB 550

April 6, 2007

Chairman Bob Lake
and Members of the House Taxation Committee
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4825

Chairman Lake and Honorable Members of the House Taxation Committee:

The City of Missoula requests that Representative Liabe's Senate Bill 550, revise local government study commission laws and tax provisions, be amended

There is a conflict between the bill's requirement for a city study commission election to be held during a city election and the end of the term of office for a city study commission. Let me provide an example. Study commission members elected in 2014 can be in office until 2016. City elections are in September and November, 2015. The plan of government needs to be filed 75 days prior to the election. This means that a city study commission would have from November 2014 to August 2015 to come up with a new plan. Technically, commission members could remain in office until 2016, but there isn't a city election in that year so they couldn't make any ballot recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of Missoula's request to amend the bill language to allow study commission elections to occur with any regularly scheduled election.

"7-3-192. Election on recommendation. (1) An alternative form or plan of government recommended by a study commission must be submitted to the voters as provided in 7-3-149. The election must be held in conjunction with any regularly scheduled election of that government."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen
Mayor

cc: The Missoula Delegation
Alec Hanson, Director Montana League of Cities and Towns